NAVY DEPARTMENT

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CARLSON'S RAIDERS' SONG

Lustily singing fighting men are "Carlson's Raiders" -- the men of the U.S. Marine Corps detachment who carried out the successful hit-and-run raid on the Japanese base on Makin Island in the Gilbert group on August 17.

These Marines were under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson, U.S.M.C., with Major James Roosevelt, U.S.M.C., second in command. They destroyed a Jap seaplane base, radio stores and installations and one large and one small seaplane on the water.

During their intensive training these men of the Marine Corps become experts in death, demolition and destruction. They can march 40 miles a day under full pack and are taught the fine points of knife and bayonet in-fighting. Expert swimmers and woodsmen, the Marine Corps Raiders are further schooled in stealth and night-fighting.

In keeping with the tradition of hardy warriors, like the Marines of World War I who went into battle singing "We'll Hang the Kaiser on a Sour Apple Tree", the Marines of the special Raider Battalion have a great yen for singing.

During their rigorous training schedule, the Raider Marines sing in songfest style for 15 minutes after "chow" each day.

The lusty battle song of the detachment which carried out the Makin raid is titled "Carlson's Raiders" and is sung to the tune of Ivan Skavinsky Skavar. The words of the song are as follows:

CARLSON'S RAIDERS

In the memory of men there were those who were brave
And fought like the heroes of old
But none of the fame who carry the name
Of Carlson's Raiders so bold.

They were gathered from near and were gathered from far
They were picked from the best in the land
A hell raising crew that sailed the blue
Was Carlson's Raider band.

They carry machine guns like pistols they say
And a knife that was tempered in hell
And the Raiders all claim no mortal by name
Could use them one quarter so well.

They whisper of raiders who gamble with death
And fought like the demons of old
And those who were there are willing to swear
By Carlson's Raiders so bold.

They will sing of the sailor and soldier I know
And tell of the deeds that were done
But Carlson's Raiders will sing for themselves
And tell how the battle was won.

So here's to the Raider who stands by his flag
Who offers his life for his land
Who marches to fame with pride in the name
Of Carlson's Raider Band.

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